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Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Programme 12
Crime prevention and criminal justice

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* A/55/50.

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Overall orientation

Objective

12.1 The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen international cooperation and assistance to Governments in tackling crime problems, in particular those posed by transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, economic and financial crime, including money-laundering, corruption and terrorism. The mandate of the programme is provided in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, of which Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991 and Council resolution 1992/1 of 6 February 1992 are the most significant.

12.2 Substantive responsibility for the implementation of the programme is vested in the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. The Centre reports to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council.

Strategy

12.3 The strategy for achieving the objectives of the programme will include the following main elements:

(a) Promoting international cooperation and action in dealing with major challenges of global crime, especially transnational organized crime and corruption;

(b) Promoting the rule of law, fair and efficient criminal justice systems and effective crime prevention;

(c) Supporting Governments in their efforts to deal with crime and justice matters, with the focus on global criminal threats, through the provision of advisory services and other forms of technical cooperation to Governments, at their request;

(d) Contributing to the prevention of international terrorism;

(e) Supporting global policy development in crime prevention and criminal justice matters.

12.4 The strategy will focus on the twin pillars of international cooperation and the provision of assistance for international efforts. It will also foster a culture based on integrity and respect for law and strengthen the active participation of civil society in preventing and combating crime and corruption. It will devote special attention to gender mainstreaming in all relevant aspects of work. Continued attention will be given to increasing the operational capacity of the programme, to achieving greater synergy of action with other relevant actors and to mobilizing resources.

12.5 As part of the multifaceted measures to implement the strategy, the programme will assist Governments to implement the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime currently being drafted and the protocols thereto. It will pursue the development of new international legal instruments to deal with the challenges of global crime. It would address in a consolidated manner the creation and dissemination of scientific knowledge, the acquisition and compilation of expertise and the provision of technical cooperation to Governments upon request. A particular focus of technical cooperation will be on strengthening the human and institutional capacities of Member States, including providing training opportunities for criminal justice personnel.

12.6 The programme will promote and facilitate the application and use of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice as the cornerstones of humane and effective criminal justice systems, which are the basic requisites for fighting crime at the international level. Emerging trends in crime and justice, especially in the priority areas, would be analysed, databases developed, global surveys issued and information gathered and disseminated. Country-specific needs assessments and early warning measures would be undertaken, for example, on the escalation of terrorism.

Expected accomplishments

12.7 Expected accomplishments would include:

(a) The adoption and entry into force of the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and the protocols thereto;

(b) The development of global strategies to address priority concerns, such as trafficking in persons and corruption;

(c) The expansion of global knowledge of and expertise to deal with, *inter alia*, organized crime, corruption and international terrorism;

(d) The timely issuance of global surveys.

Indicators of achievement

12.8 Indicators of achievements would include:

(a) The number of Member States signing or ratifying the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and the protocols thereto;

(b) The number of countries receiving technical assistance in addressing priority issues, such as trafficking in persons and corruption, and measures taken as a result of that assistance;

(c) Best practices and information disseminated; and research undertaken and new techniques developed to deal with transnational organized crime;

(d) The quality and accessibility of databases maintained by the Centre for International Crime Prevention;

(e) The number of global surveys issued.

Legislative mandates

Programme 12
Crime prevention and criminal justice

General Assembly resolutions

46/152	Creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme
50/145	Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
51/60	United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security
51/191	United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions
52/86	Crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women
53/111	Transnational organized crime
53/112	Mutual assistance and international cooperation in criminal matters
54/110	Measures to eliminate international terrorism
54/126	Draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto
54/128	Action against corruption

Security Council resolution

1269 (1999)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1992/1	Establishment of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
1997/27	Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with regard to the development of crime statistics and the operations of criminal justice systems
1998/21	United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice
1999/25	Effective crime prevention

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions

1/1	Strategic management by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme

4/1 Succession of States in respect of international treaties on combating various manifestations of crime